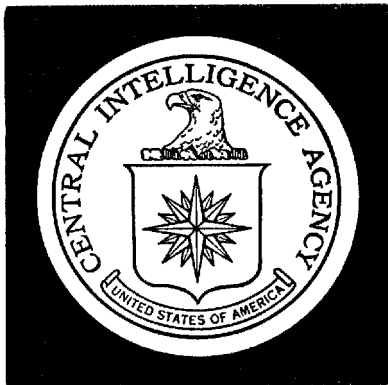


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Lebanon: The government is preparing to take strong measures to prevent fedayeen from instigating further incidents with Israel.

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LEBANON: THE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO PREVENT THE FEDAYEEN FROM INSTIGATING FURTHER INCIDENTS ALONG THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER.

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LEBANANESE GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY LEADERS HAVE DECIDED TO CONFRONT FEDAYEEN GROUPS WITH FORCE IF THEY ATTEMPT TO DISOBEY THE GOVERNMENT'S PROHIBITION ON MOUNTING OPERATIONS INTO ISRAEL. PRESIDENT HILU VIEWS THE FEDAYEEN AS LEBANON'S MAJOR SECURITY PROBLEM AND BELIEVES THEY MUST BE CONTROLLED. HE IS AWARE THAT THIS MOVE MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BUT BELIEVES THAT INCIDENTS WHICH COULD PROVOKE ISRAELI RETALIATION ARE OF GREATER DANGER TO LEBANON.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DECIDED YET WHETHER TO TREAT THE FEDAYEEN PROBLEM AS A PURELY LEBANESE MATTER OR AS AN INTER-ARAB QUESTION. LEBANON MAY TRY TO GAIN SYMPATHY FOR ITS POSITION FROM OTHER ARAB STATES, ALTHOUGH PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY FRUITFUL.

HILU HAS SOUGHT TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH FATAH, WHICH HE TENDS TO REGARD AS THE LEAST RADICAL OF THE TERRORIST GROUPS. HE VIEWS ALL FEDAYEEN GROUPS, HOWEVER, AS ESSENTIALLY DANGEROUS REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS OPERATING OUTSIDE ESTABLISHED POLITICAL STRUCTURES.

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